

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

✓ Please replace the paragraph starting at page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to excipients, particularly disintegrants, that contain low residual solvent (< 3000 ppm). The excipients are preferably polysaccharide products, which include, but are not limited to, starch, amylose, amylopectin, gelatin, starch 1500, sodium starch glycolate, cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), croscarmellose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC), and chitosan. The most favorable excipient is sodium starch glycolate. The low-residual-solvent excipient is further characterized by its water absorbing property by adding a water-absorbing radical, such as a (-RCOO⁻A⁺) (wherein A⁺ is Na⁺ or K⁺; wherein R is a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms), to the carbinol groups (-CH₂OH) of the excipients to form a methoxy alkylcarboxyl (-CH₂-O-RCOO⁻A⁺) group in the excipient so as to improve the water absorbing property of the excipients which facilitates the replacement of residual solvent with water. The present invention also relates to a method for reducing residual solvent in excipients. The method includes removing residual solvent from the excipients by way of adding a solvent/water solution containing: (1) about 75-95% (v/v) isopropanol and about 5-25% water (v/v); (2) about 65-95% acetone and about 5-35% water; and (3) about 60-85% methanol and about 15-40% water.--

✓ Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A The water absorbing property of the low-residual-solvent excipients is obtained by linking a water absorbing radical, such as a (-RCOO⁻A⁺) (wherein A⁺ is Na⁺ or K⁺; wherein R is a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms), to the carbinol groups (-CH₂OH) of the excipients to form a methoxy alkylcarboxyl (-CH₂-O-RCOO⁻A⁺) group in the excipients. Hereinafter, R is referred to as lower alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms and A⁺ is referred to as Na⁺ or K⁺. Preferably, R is a straight chain lower alkyl group. The most preferred water absorbing radical is an acetate sodium radical (-CH₂COO⁻Na⁺). *A*

A Please replace the paragraph starting at page 9, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A The classification data shown in Table 2 indicates that methanol is classified as class 2 solvent which is more biohazard than ethanol, a class 3 solvent. That is also the reason why ethanol has a tolerable level of (< 5000 ppm), which is higher than that of methanol (< 3000 ppm). Thus, the tolerable residual concentration for ethanol is higher than that of methanol. *A*

A Please replace the diagram on page 10 with the following amended diagram:

